

**Wisconsin  
Hospices and Patients  
1999**

Bureau of Health Information  
Division of Health Care Financing  
Department of Health and Family Services

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## Introduction

This report, the first in an annual series, presents selected statistics on Wisconsin hospices and patients for 1999. The source of data for this document is the Annual Survey of Hospices, which was conducted by the Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing (DHCF), in cooperation with Wisconsin-licensed hospices; the Bureau of Fee-for-Service Health Care Benefits, DHCF; and the Bureau of Quality Assurance, Division of Supportive Living. The Hospice Organization of Wisconsin (HOW) has endorsed this survey, which represents the first time that data have been collected on all Wisconsin-licensed hospices and their patients.

## Background

In general, *hospice* is a program that provides care to terminally ill persons who have a life expectancy of 6-12 months. (The patient must have a medical prognosis of 12 months or less to be eligible to receive services from a Wisconsin-licensed hospice. Medicare requires a prognosis of 6 months or less to elect the Medicare hospice benefit.) The goal of hospice is to care for people in the comfort of their own homes, including when “home” is a nursing home, community-based residential facility, adult family home, or other setting. “Hospice” can be an organization, a program within an organization, or a place (for details, see Wisconsin Administrative Code HFS 131).

Hospice care is significantly different in goals and emphasis from traditional medical practice. The goal of hospice care is palliative (seeking to improve patient comfort and to lessen pain and other symptoms of illness) rather than curative. It also emphasizes home care rather than institutional care, addresses the psychological, social, spiritual, and physical needs of the patient, and provides supportive services to the family. Volunteers are a unique component in hospice care.

Hospice care is provided by an interdisciplinary team of professionals including nurses, physicians, social workers, counselors (bereavement, spiritual, dietary, and other), nursing assistants, volunteers and therapists. The services provided include clinical pain management, personal hygiene maintenance, emotional and spiritual counseling, bereavement support, medications, medical supplies and equipment, inpatient stays if necessary, and ancillary services such as physical and speech therapy.

Hospice services are available to all age groups, from newborn to elderly. Hospice services may be covered by Medicare, Medicaid (Medical Assistance), and private insurance companies.

## Data Collection and Report Preparation

The 1999 survey population consisted of all 60 hospices licensed by the State of Wisconsin to operate in 1999. The Bureau of Health Information (BHI) sent the survey form to all Wisconsin-licensed hospices at the end of February 2000. The survey utilizes a survey date of December 31; that is, hospices are asked to report some survey items (such as number of patients) as of that date. Other data items (such as the number of patient days and the number of admissions and discharges) were reported for all of calendar year 1999.

The Bureau of Health Information would like to acknowledge and thank the personnel of Wisconsin hospices who provided information on their services and patients, and the Hospice Organization of Wisconsin for its endorsement of the survey.

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## Key Findings

- In 1999, there were 60 hospices licensed to operate in Wisconsin. Nonprofit organizations made up 87 percent of hospices, and served 86 percent of all hospice patients.
- Of the total of 60 hospices, 59 were Medicare-certified and 58 were Medicaid-certified.
- Ten percent of Wisconsin hospices (6 out of 60) operated a residential facility. These residential facilities had a total of 63 beds and approximately 10,700 hospice patient days in 1999.
- Nearly all hospices (93 percent) had one or more contracts with a hospital or skilled nursing facility (SNF) so patients could be admitted to those facilities for symptom management and/or inpatient respite care. There were 361 such contracts in 1999, under which nearly 8,000 acute care days and over 2,200 respite care days were provided to hospice patients.
- Eighty-five percent of hospices had one or more contracts with a nursing home for hospice routine care. About 1,570 hospice patients were residing in nursing homes in 1999, for a total of about 77,500 days.
- Sixty-five percent of hospice patients had cancer as the principal diagnosis, and 12 percent had a principal diagnosis of end-stage cardiovascular disease.
- Forty-one percent of hospice patients were referred to the hospice by a physician, and 24 percent were referred by a hospital.
- Nearly 9,600 hospice patients died or were discharged in 1999; most of these (88%) were deaths.
- In 1999, the hospice utilization rate among people aged 65 and older was 12 patients per 1,000 population in this age group.
- The hospice utilization rate was higher for males than for females in nearly every age group.
- In 1999, 97 percent of hospice patient days were at the routine home care level, and only 1 percent were for respite care.
- At the time of their admission to a hospice program, 80 percent of hospice patients admitted in 1999 had Medicare as their primary pay source. Ten percent had private insurance, and 4 percent had managed care (HMO).
- On December 31, 1999, 78 percent of hospice patients had Medicare as their primary pay source, 9 percent had private insurance, and 4 percent had an HMO.
- On December 31, 1999, 76 percent of hospice patients were residing at home or in some other private residence, 15 percent were residing in nursing homes, 3 percent were in hospice residential facilities, and 6 percent were in some other setting.
- Of hospice patient deaths in 1999, 61 percent occurred at home, 18 percent occurred in nursing homes, 13 percent occurred in an inpatient facility (such as a hospital).



## Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	1
<b>Key Findings</b> .....	3
<b>Characteristics of Hospices</b>	
Table 1. Hospice Programs and Patients by Ownership Type .....	7
Table 2. Hospice Certification and Accreditation.....	7
Table 3. Hospice Facility Operation and Contracts with Other Facilities.....	8
<b>Characteristics of Hospice Patients</b>	
Table 4. Principal Diagnosis of Hospice Patients.....	9
Figure. Principal Diagnosis of Hospice Patients.....	9
Table 5. Hospice Patients by Referral Source.....	10
Table 6. Discharges of Hospice Patients by Reason for Discharge.....	10
Table 7. Hospices and Patients by County of Hospice Location .....	11
Map. Hospices in Wisconsin, 1999.....	12
Table 8. Number, Percent, and Utilization Rate of Hospice Patients by Age and Sex.....	13
Table 9. Hospice Patient Days by Level of Care.....	13
Table 10. Length of Stay of Hospice Patients Who Died or Were Discharged.....	14
Table 11. Primary Pay Source at Admission to a Hospice Program.....	15
Table 12. Primary Pay Source for Hospice Patients, December 31, 1999 .....	15
Table 13. Living Arrangements of Hospice Patients, December 31, 1999 .....	16
Table 14. Deaths Among Hospice Patients by Site of Occurrence .....	16
<b>Technical Notes</b> .....	17
<b>Survey Instrument</b> .....	19





**Table 1. Hospice Programs and Patients by Hospice Ownership Type, Wisconsin 1999**

	State Total	Ownership of Hospice		
		Governmental	Nonprofit	Proprietary
Number of Hospices	60	4	52	4
Number of Unduplicated Hospice Patients	10,707	126	9,239	1,342
Number of Hospice Patients on December 31, 1999	1,381	11	1,188	182
Average Daily Census for Calendar Year 1999	1,316	20	1,125	171

Source: Annual Survey of Hospices, Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Note: See Technical Notes for an explanation of the unduplicated patient count.

- In 1999, there were 60 hospices licensed to operate in Wisconsin. Nonprofit organizations made up 87 percent of hospices, and served 86 percent of all hospice patients.
- Four proprietary hospices (7 percent) served 13 percent of all hospice patients.
- There were about 1,400 hospice patients on December 31, 1999, accounting for 13 percent of the total number of hospice patients served during the year.

**Table 2. Hospice Certification and Accreditation, Wisconsin 1999**

Number of Hospices			
Total Number of Hospices	Medicare Certified	Medicaid Certified	JCAHO or CHAP Accredited
60	59	58	35

Source: Annual Survey of Hospices, Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

- Of the 60 Wisconsin-licensed hospices, 59 reported they were certified to provide Medicare-funded hospice services and 58 reported they were certified to provide Medicaid-funded hospice services.
- More than half (35) of the 60 hospices reported they were accredited by an organization such as the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), or the Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP).

## Characteristics of Hospices

**Table 3. Hospice Facility Operation and Contracts with Other Facilities, Wisconsin 1999**

	Number	Percent
Total number of hospices	60	100%
Total number of hospice patient days	481,428	
Number of hospices operating a residential facility:	6	10
Number of beds in these facilities	63	
Number of hospice patient days in these facilities	10,658	
Number of hospices operating an inpatient facility:	5	8
Number of beds in these facilities	56	
Number of hospice patient days in these facilities	3,941	
Number of hospices that had a contract with hospitals/SNFs for symptom management and/or inpatient respite care:	56	93
Number of contracts	361	
Number of acute care days	7,932	
Number of respite care days	2,220	
Number of hospices that had a contract with a nursing facility for inpatient respite services:	20	33
Number of contracts	111	
Number of respite care days	72	
Number of hospices that had a contract with a nursing home for hospice routine care:	51	85
Number of contracts	383	
Number of hospice patients residing in nursing homes	1,569	
Number of days spent in nursing homes by hospice patients	77,525	
Number of hospices that had a contract with a CBRF:	40	67
Number of contracts	255	
Number of hospice patients residing in CBRFs	332	
Number of days spent in CBRFs by hospice patients	15,839	
Number of hospices that had a contract with an HMO or other managed care organization	29	48

Source: Annual Survey of Hospices, Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Notes: Hospice patients could have more than one type of stay during the year.  
See Technical Notes for definitions of "routine care," "respite care," and other hospice levels of care.

- Ten percent of Wisconsin hospices (6 of 60) operated a residential facility. These residential facilities had 63 beds and approximately 10,700 hospice patient days in 1999.
- Eight percent of hospices operated an inpatient facility. These facilities had a total of 56 beds, and approximately 4,000 hospice patient days in 1999.
- Nearly all hospices (93 percent) had one or more contracts with a hospital or skilled nursing facility (SNF) so patients could be admitted to those facilities for symptom management and/or inpatient respite care. There were 361 such contracts in 1999, under which nearly 8,000 acute care days and over 2,200 respite care days were provided to hospice patients.
- One-third of hospices had one or more contracts with a nursing facility (NF) for inpatient respite services. There were 111 such contracts, but few (72) such respite care days in 1999.
- Eighty-five percent of hospices had one or more contracts with a nursing home for hospice routine care. About 1,570 hospice patients were residing in nursing homes in 1999, for a total of approximately 77,500 days.
- Two-thirds of hospices had one or more contracts with a community-based residential facility (CBRF). There were over 330 hospice patients residing in CBRFs, totalling 15,800 days.

**Table 4. Principal Diagnosis of Hospice Patients, Wisconsin 1999**

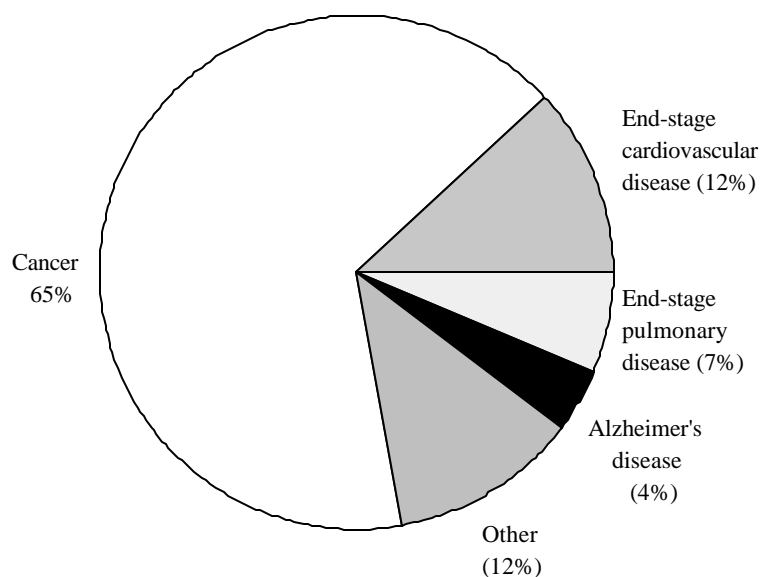
Principal Diagnosis	Number of Patients	Percent of Patients
Total	10,707	100%
Malignant neoplasm (cancer)	6,801	65
End-stage cardiovascular disease	1,232	12
End-stage pulmonary disease	673	7
Alzheimer's disease	399	4
Renal failure/end-stage kidney disease	216	2
ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis)	68	1
HIV infection	26	<1
Diabetes	24	<1
Other conditions	907	9

Source: Annual Survey of Hospices, Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Notes: Principal diagnosis is the diagnosis responsible for admission to the hospice.  
Percentages are based on a total of 10,346 patients for whom principal diagnosis was reported.  
Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

- In 1999, 65 percent of Wisconsin hospice patients had cancer as the principal diagnosis, and 12 percent had a principal diagnosis of end-stage cardiovascular disease.

**Figure. Principal Diagnosis of Hospice Patients, Wisconsin 1999**



**Table 5. Hospice Patients by Referral Source, Wisconsin 1999**

Referral Source	Number of Patients	Percent
Total	10,707	100%
Physician	3,987	41
Hospital	2,326	24
Self-Referral	168	2
Patient's Family	897	9
Home Health Agency	590	6
Other	1,853	19

Source: Annual Survey of Hospices, Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Notes: Percentages are based on a total of 9,821 patients for whom referral source was reported. Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

- Forty-one percent of hospice patients were referred to the hospice by a physician, and 24 percent were referred by a hospital. The referral source was reported as “other” for 19 percent of patients; at least one-third of these “other” referrals were referrals by nursing homes.

**Table 6. Discharges of Hospice Patients by Reason for Discharge, Wisconsin, 1999**

Reason for Discharge	Patients Discharged	
	Number	Percent
Total	9,572	100%
Hospice Care Not Appropriate	411	4
Transferred to Another Hospice	160	2
Revocation of Hospice Benefit	406	4
Other	153	2
Deaths	8,442	88

Source: Annual Survey of Hospices, Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

- Nearly 9,600 hospice patients died or were discharged in 1999; most of these (88%) were deaths.
- Four percent of discharges from hospices were because hospice care was no longer appropriate (probably because the patient’s prognosis had changed).
- Another 4 percent of discharges were due to “revocation of hospice benefit;” this means the patient voluntarily withdrew from hospice care.

**Table 7. Hospices and Patients by County of Hospice Location, Wisconsin 1999**

County of Hospice	Number of		Percent of	County of Hospice	Number of		Percent of
	Hospices	Patients	Total Patients		Hospices	Patients	Total Patients
State Total	60	10,707	100%	Marathon	1	461	4
Ashland	1	210	2	Milwaukee	7	2,425	23
Barron	1	58	1	Monroe	1	117	1
Brown	1	637	6	Oneida	2	203	2
Calumet	2	37	<1	Outagamie	1	235	2
Chippewa	1	110	1	Portage	1	141	1
Crawford	1	136	1	Price	1	40	<1
Dane	1	787	7	Richland	1	22	<1
Dodge	1	76	1	Rock	2	241	2
Eau Claire	1	146	1	St. Croix	1	59	1
Fond du Lac	1	366	3	Sauk	1	155	1
Grant	1	51	<1	Shawano	1	65	1
Green	1	83	1	Sheboygan	2	362	3
Iowa	1	63	1	Taylor	1	60	1
Jefferson	1	143	1	Vernon	1	52	<1
Kenosha	1	292	3	Waukesha	3	1,336	12
LaCrosse	2	359	3	Waupaca	1	43	<1
Lafayette	1	19	<1	Winnebago	1	275	3
Langlade	1	62	1	Wood	1	252	2
Manitowoc	2	72	1	Out of State	8	456	4

Source: Annual Survey of Hospices, Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Notes: Patient counts are by location of the hospice (not patient residence).

Counties shown have at least one hospice located in the county.

Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

- In 1999, 23 percent of hospice patients were served by hospices located in Milwaukee County, and 12 percent were served by hospices located in Waukesha County.
- Milwaukee County had seven hospices, and Waukesha County had three (see Map, next page). There were two hospices in each of the following counties: Calumet, LaCrosse, Manitowoc, Oneida, Rock, and Sheboygan.

## Hospices in Wisconsin, 1999



\*Map does not show the eight Wisconsin-licensed hospices located outside the state.

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**Table 8. Number, Percent and Utilization Rate of Hospice Patients by Age and Sex, Wisconsin 1999**

Age	Total			Female			Male		
	Number	Percent	Rate	Number	Percent	Rate	Number	Percent	Rate
<b>All Patients</b>	10,707	100%	2.0	5,350	100%	2	4,996	100%	1.9
Under 55	812	8	0.2	413	8	0.2	394	8	0.2
55-64	1,196	12	2.6	557	10	2.4	583	12	2.6
65-74	2,679	26	7.6	1,189	22	6.3	1,393	28	8.6
75-84	3,465	33	13.9	1,654	31	11.0	1,656	33	16.6
85 or older	2,194	21	23.0	1,297	24	19.1	788	16	28.4
65 or older	8,338	81	12.0	4,140	77	10.2	3,837	77	13.2

Source: Annual Survey of Hospices, Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Notes: The rate is the number of hospice patients per 1,000 statewide population in the age group.  
Percentages are based on the 10,346 patients (5,110 male and 4,814 female) for whom age was reported.  
Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

- The hospice utilization rate among people aged 65 and older was 12 patients per 1,000 population in this age group.
- The hospice utilization rate was higher for males than for females in nearly every age group.

**Table 9. Hospice Patient Days by Level of Care, Wisconsin 1999**

Level of Care	Patient Days	Percent
Total patient days	481,428	100%
Routine home care	467,993	97
Continuous care	766	<1
Inpatient care: acute/symptom management	10,243	2
Respite care	2,426	1

Source: Annual Survey of Hospices, Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Notes: Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.  
One facility did not provide information on patient days (either total or by level of care) for 1999.  
See Technical Notes for level of care definitions.

- In 1999, 97 percent of hospice patient days were at the routine home care level, and only 1 percent were for respite care.



**Table 10. Length of Stay of Hospice Patients Who Died or Were Discharged, Wisconsin 1999**

<b>Length of Stay</b>	<b>Number of Patients</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Total Discharges/Deaths	9,572	100%
1 to 7 days	2,586	27
8 to 14 days	1,564	16
15 to 30 days	1,754	18
31 to 60 days	1,517	16
61 to 90 days	712	7
91 to 180 days	812	8
181 days to 1 year	416	4
More than 1 year	136	1

Source: Annual Survey of Hospices, Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Notes: "Length of stay" means time from when the patient was admitted to the hospice program until the patient died or was discharged from the program.

Percentages are based on a total of 9,497 patients for whom length of stay was reported

Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

- Seventy-seven percent of hospice patients who died or were discharged had a length of stay of 60 days or less.

**Table 11. Primary Pay Source at Admission to a Hospice Program for Patients Admitted in 1999, Wisconsin**

Primary Pay Source	Number of Patients	Percent
Total Admissions	9,720	100%
Medicare	7,446	80
Medicaid	262	3
Medicare and Medicaid ("dual entitlees")	158	2
Managed Care (HMO)	408	4
PACE/Partnership (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly)	0	0
Private Insurance	932	10
Self Pay	72	1
Other	81	1

Source: Annual Survey of Hospices, Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Notes: Percentages are based on a total of 9,359 patients whose primary pay source at admission was reported. Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.  
Primary pay source is the payment source that the hospice expects will pay the largest amount for the patient's hospice care.

- At the time of their admission to a hospice program, 80 percent of hospice patients admitted in 1999 had Medicare as their primary pay source. Ten percent had private insurance, and 4 percent had managed care (HMO).

**Table 12. Primary Pay Source for Hospice Patients, Wisconsin, December 31, 1999**

Primary Pay Source	Number of Patients	Percent
Total Patients	1,381	100%
Medicare	1,080	78
Medicaid	36	3
Medicare and Medicaid ("dual entitlees")	43	3
Managed Care (HMO)	55	4
PACE/Partnership (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly)	0	0
Private Insurance	127	9
Self Pay	21	2
Other	14	1

Source: Annual Survey of Hospices, Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Notes: Percentages are based on a total of 1,376 patients whose primary pay source was reported. Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.  
Primary pay source is the payment source that the hospice expects will pay the largest amount for the patient's hospice care.

- On December 31, 1999, 78 percent of hospice patients had Medicare as their primary pay source, 9 percent had private insurance, and 4 percent had an HMO.

**Table 13. Living Arrangements of Hospice Patients, Wisconsin, December 31, 1999**

<b>Living Arrangement</b>	<b>Number of Patients</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Total Patients	1,381	100%
Home/private residence	1,047	76
Nursing home	213	15
Hospice residential facility	37	3
Assisted living:		
Residential care apartment complex	5	<1
Adult family home	1	<1
Community-based residential facility (CBRF)	41	3
Inpatient facility (acute-care hospitals, etc.)	24	2
Other site	8	1

Source: Annual Survey of Hospices, Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Notes: Percentages are based on a total of 1,376 patients whose living arrangement was reported. Percentage may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

See Technical Notes for definitions of selected living arrangements.

- On December 31, 1999, 76 percent of hospice patients were residing at home or in some other private residence, 15 percent were residing in nursing homes, 3 percent were in hospice residential facilities, and 6 percent were in some other setting.

**Table 14. Deaths among Hospice Patients by Site of Occurrence, Wisconsin 1999**

<b>Location of Death</b>	<b>Number of Patients</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Total Deaths	8,442	100%
Home/private residence	5,176	61
Nursing home	1,519	18
Hospice residential facility	301	4
Assisted living:		
Residential care apartment complex	8	0
Adult family home	13	0
Community-based residential facility (CBRF)	279	3
Inpatient facility (acute-care hospitals, etc.)	1,076	13
Other site	70	1

Source: Annual Survey of Hospices, Bureau of Health Information, Division of Health Care Financing, Department of Health and Family Services.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

- Of hospice patient deaths in 1999, 61 percent occurred at home, 18 percent occurred in nursing homes, and 13 percent occurred in an inpatient facility (such as a hospital).

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## Technical Notes

**Unduplicated patient count (Tables 1, 4, 5, 7, and 8).** Each person served during 1999 is counted only once regardless of the number of times during the year they were admitted and discharged.

### Hospice Level of Care (Table 9)

**Routine home care day** is a day on which an individual who has chosen hospice care is receiving palliative services at the place of residence considered his or her home.

**Continuous home care day** is a day on which an individual who has chosen hospice care is not in an inpatient facility and is receiving continuous care, primarily nursing care, to achieve palliation or management of acute medical symptoms. Home health aide or homemaker services may be provided to supplement the nursing care. Continuous home care is furnished during periods of crisis to maintain the terminally ill patient at home.

**Inpatient care day** is a day on which an individual who has chosen hospice care receives general inpatient care in an inpatient facility for pain control or acute or chronic symptom management which cannot be managed in other settings.

**Respite care day** is a day on which an individual who has chosen hospice care receives care in an approved inpatient facility on a short-term basis to relieve the family or other persons caring for the individual at home.

### Living Arrangements (Table 13)

**A community-based residential facility (CBRF)** is a place where 5 or more unrelated adults reside in which care, treatment or services above the level of room and board but not including nursing care are provided to residents as a primary function of the facility.

**A residential care apartment complex** is a living unit for severely disabled individuals that is developed by a sponsor and that is not physically connected to a nursing home or hospital except by common service units for laundry, kitchen or utility purposes and that may include buildings and grounds for activities related to residence, including congregate meal sites, socialization, and physical rehabilitation facilities.

**An adult family home** means a place where 3 or 4 adults not related to the licensee reside in which care, treatment or services above the level of room and board but not including nursing care are provided to persons residing in the home as a primary function of the place.

